

From: [Jil Zilligen](#)
To: [Chace Pedersen](#)
Subject: ACU-23-00003 Atlas
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 10:51:20 PM

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Chace Pedersen
Staff Planner
Kittitas County Community Development Services

Re: ACU-23-00003 Atlas, Notice of Application, Atlas Tower LLC and Victor Strand

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

We are writing to object to the application ACU-23-00003 Atlas for the placement of a telecommunications tower and facilities on parcel number 818833 at 4140 Manastash Road, Ellensburg, WA. We are nearby residents and property owners who learned of this application from neighbors who learned of it from a Facebook friend. We received no notice directly from KCCDS, making it difficult to comment substantively with such short notice. Nonetheless, we write with significant concerns about the negative impacts that will result if this project is approved.

1. We note with concern that a NEPA report has neither been completed nor reviewed. We respectfully request that no approval for this project be granted until after the NEPA report is complete, made available, and thoroughly reviewed.
2. While the SEPA checklist notes that no emissions are expected from the tower itself, there is no mention of the negative impacts from the planned one to four wireless providers' antennas that will be installed on the tower. **Most concerning in this regard is the radiation emitted from the collocated antennas.**
3. While the FCC claims that wireless facilities are safe, the U.S. Department of the Interior states that "the electromagnetic radiation standards used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to be based on thermal heating, a criterion now nearly 30 years out of date and inapplicable today." Other countries now limit public exposure to levels far lower than the standards currently set by the FCC. Studies have shown that even at low levels of radiation, there is evidence of biological damage, brain tumors, cancer, weakened immune function, childhood leukemia, reduced sperm count and ovarian follicles. Further, The American Cancer Society has stated that more research is needed to address the concerns relating to emissions from cell phone towers. Studies that looked at the cancer rates of children living near cell phone towers have concluded that living within proximity is cause for concern.
4. The permit application stipulates that "the proposed use is essential or desirable to the public convenience and not detrimental or injurious to the public health, peace, or safety or to the character of the surrounding neighborhood." Please see #3 above re: health concerns and safety from the collocated antennas. In an agricultural and residential area with dozens of homes nearby, a 100-foot commercial tower with up to four wireless providers' antennas and on-the-ground base-station equipment is dramatically inconsistent with and detrimental to the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

5. Additional non-radiation safety concerns include pole overloading and resulting fire and electrocution hazards should the pole topple due to **high winds**, earthquakes, or vehicle accidents, as well as explosive or toxic chemicals hazards from any potential on-the-ground base-station back-up batteries.

While we agree that our county needs increased communications capacity and reliability, we hope that there are strategies and locations more in keeping with Kittitas County's public health and safety and character goals.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Jil Zilligen and Chris Schedler
361 Midfield Drive